

Claims

We Claim:

1. A label device comprising:
 - a housing for accommodating at least a roll of label stock;
 - a dispenser mechanism for dispensing the roll of label stock;
 - an interface for communicating data concerning an amount of a payment to an
 - 5 accounting unit external to the label device to reduce a fund stored in the accounting unit by a second amount, the second amount being a function of the amount of the payment;
 - a processor for generating signals representative of at least an image of a
 - indicium indicative of the payment; and
 - 10 a printing mechanism responsive to the signals for printing at least the image of the indicium on the roll of label stock.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the second amount being the same as the amount of the payment.
- 15 3. The device of claim 1 further comprising a weighing apparatus, wherein the housing also accommodates the weighing apparatus.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is in a continuous tape
- 20 form.
5. The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is self-adhesive.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein the roll of label stock is dispensed at a
- 25 selected length.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the selected length is a function of the size of a piece onto which the printed image of the indicium is applied.

8. The device of claim 6 wherein at least one selected image other than the image of the indicium is printed on the roll of label stock, the selected length being a function of the size of the selected image.

5 9. The device of claim 8 wherein the selected image contains address information.

10 10. The device of claim 1 wherein the label stock is transparent and has a selected side thereof for adhering to a piece, the image of the indicium being printed on the selected side.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein the image of the indicium contains a plurality of elements, at least two of the elements having different colors.

15 12. The device of claim 1 wherein the label stock comprises material which disintegrates under stress.

20 13. The device of claim 12 wherein the material includes at least one perforation.

14. The device of claim 1 wherein the label stock comprises material which deforms under stress.

25 15. A system for conducting a transaction with a server, the transaction concerning a purchase of a ticket for an event, the system comprising:
an interface for establishing a communications connection with the server;
a device for receiving at least one preference concerning the event; and
a processor for communicating, through the communications connection, at
30 least first information concerning transfer of funds for payment of the ticket and second information concerning the at least one preference, the interface receiving

from the server third information concerning a printable indicium serving as proof of the payment of the ticket.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the indicium is indicative of at least a payment amount.

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17. The system of claim 15 wherein the medium comprises label stock.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein the indicium comprises a machine readable portion.

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19. The system of claim 18 wherein the machine readable portion includes a barcode.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the barcode is a 2-dimensional barcode.

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21. The system of claim 18 wherein the indicium contains selected information concerning a purchaser of the ticket.

22. The system of claim 15 wherein selected information in the indicium is encrypted.

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23. The system of claim 21 wherein the selected information contains information concerning biometrics.

24. The system of claim 18 wherein the machine readable portion contains information concerning a digital signature.

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25. The system of claim 15 wherein the transaction concerns a lottery entry.

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26. The system of claim 15 further comprising an accounting unit.

27. The system of claim 15 wherein the accounting unit includes a register for recording an available fund amount.

28. The system of claim 15 wherein the accounting unit includes a register for recording a dispensed fund amount.

SD 3 > 29. Apparatus for generating a indicium indicative of a payment, the apparatus comprising:

10 a print head assembly responsive to at least one signal for printing the indicium; and

a sensor for detecting an intrusion on a connection transporting the signal to the print head assembly, at least part of the sensor and the connection being encapsulated in potting material, wherein operation of said print head is terminated when an intrusion is detected.

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30. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the sensor includes a carrier for transporting a second signal, the carrier being arranged in proximity to the connection.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the second signal is an electrical signal and the carrier includes a conductor.

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32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the second signal is an optical signal and the carrier includes an optical fiber.

25 33. The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the potting material includes epoxy.

34. Apparatus for generating a postage indicium, the apparatus comprising: a dispenser mechanism for providing a medium, fluorescent marking being printed on the medium; and

30 a printing mechanism for printing the postage indicium on the medium, the printed postage indicium being non-fluorescent.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the medium comprises label stock.

36. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the printing mechanism prints both of
5 the fluorescent marking and the postage indicium on the medium.

37. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed
before the postage indicium.

10 38. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form
of a stripe.

39. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form
of a barcode representative of information.

15 40. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the printed postage indicium is
positioned on the medium according to a position of the fluorescent marking.

41. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the fluorescent marking is invisible.

20 42. Apparatus for providing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of
postage, the apparatus comprising:

25 a processor for generating the postage indicium, which includes a first
machine readable portion and a second machine readable portion, the first machine
readable portion being separate from the second machine readable portion, the first
machine readable portion representing postal data, the second machine readable
portion representing second data for recovering at least part of the postal data when
the first machine readable portion is corrupted; and

a mechanism for setting the postage indicium on a medium.

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43. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes the at least part of the postal data.

44. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes a code for
5 correcting at least one error in the postal data.

45. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second data includes a code for detecting at least one error in the postal data.

10 46. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the first machine readable portion includes a barcode.

47. The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional
barcode.

15 48. The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the second machine readable portion includes a barcode.

49. The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the barcode is a one-dimensional
20 barcode.

50. Apparatus for dispensing label stock, the apparatus comprising:
a mechanism for setting an address on a first part of the label stock and a postage
indicium on a second part of the label stock, the postage indicium being indicative of
25 a payment of postage, the first part and the second part being applied onto a mail
piece, wherein said postage indicium is a 2- dimensional bar code; and
a processor for generating at least one indication for associating the first part
with the second part, the indication being set on at least one of the first and second
parts.

30 51. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the indication is human readable.

52. The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the indication is set onto the second part, and the indication contains information concerning at least part of the address.

5 53. The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the information concerns a zip code in the address.

54. A method for use in a label device having a housing for accommodating at least a roll of label stock, the method comprising:

10 communicating data concerning an amount of a payment to an accounting unit external to the label device to reduce a fund stored in the accounting unit by a second amount, the second amount being a function of the amount of the payment;

 generating signals representative of at least an image of a indicium indicative of the payment;

15 dispensing the roll of label stock; and

 printing at least the image of the indicium on the roll of label stock in response to the signals.

20 55. The method of claim 54 wherein the second amount being the same as the amount of the payment.

56. The method of claim 54 further comprising determining a weight of a mail piece onto which the printed image of the indicium is applied.

25 57. The method of claim 56 further comprising determining the amount of the payment based on at least the weight of the mail piece.

58. The method of claim 54 wherein the roll of label stock is dispensed at a selected length.

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59. The method of claim 58 wherein the selected length is a function of the size of a mailpiece onto which the printed image of the indicium is applied.

60. The method of claim 58 wherein at least one image other than the image
5 of the indicium is printed on the roll of label stock, the selected length being a function of the size of the selected image.

61. The method of claim 60 wherein the image other than the image of the indicium contains address information.

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~~62. The method of claim 54 wherein the label stock is transparent and has a selected side thereof for adhering to a piece, the image of the indicium being printed on the selected side.~~

63. The method of claim 54 wherein the image of the indicium contains a plurality of elements, at least two of the elements having different colors.

64. A method for use in a server for conducting a transaction with a device, the transaction concerning a purchase of a ticket for an event, the method
20 comprising:

establishing a communications connection with the device;
receiving from the device at least first information concerning transfer of funds for payment of the ticket and second information concerning at least one preference concerning the event; and
25 providing third information concerning a printable indicium serving as proof of the payment of the ticket.

65. The method of claim 64 wherein the indicium is indicative of at least a payment amount.

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66. The method of claim 64 wherein the indicium includes a machine readable portion.

5 67. The method of claim 64 wherein the machine readable portion includes a barcode.

68. The method of claim 67 wherein the barcode is a 2-dimensional barcode.

10 69. The method of claim 64 wherein the indicium contains selected information concerning a purchaser.

70. The method of claim 64 wherein selected information in the indicium is encrypted.

15 71. The method of claim 69 wherein the selected information contains information concerning biometrics.

20 72. The method of claim 66 wherein the machine readable portion contains information concerning a digital signature.

73. The method of claim 64 wherein the transaction concerns a lottery entry.

25 74. The method of claim 64 further comprising recording an available fund amount.

75. The method of claim 64 further comprising recording a dispensed fund.

30 76. A method for use in an apparatus including a print head assembly responsive to at least one signal for printing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of postage, the method comprising:

disposing a sensor in proximity to a connection transporting the signal to the print head assembly;

encapsulating at least part of the sensor and the connection using potting material;

5 detecting any intrusion on the connection using the sensor ; and
terminating operation of the printer head when an intrusion is detected.

77. A method for use in an apparatus for generating a postage indicium, the method comprising:

5 providing a medium, fluorescent marking being printed on the medium; and
printing the postage indicium on the medium, the printed postage indicium
being non-fluorescent.

78. The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed along
with the postage indicium.

10 79. The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is printed before
the postage indicium.

80. The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of
15 a stripe.

81. The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is in the form of
a barcode representative of information.

20 82. The method of claim 77 further comprising positioning the printed
postage indicium on the medium according to a position of the fluorescent marking.

83. The method of claim 77 wherein the fluorescent marking is invisible.

84. A method for providing a postage indicium indicative of a payment of postage, the method comprising:

- 5 generating the postage indicium, which includes a first machine readable portion and a second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion being separate from the second machine readable portion, the first machine readable portion representing postal data, the second machine readable portion representing second data for recovering at least part of the postal data when the first machine readable portion is corrupted; and
- 10 setting the postage indicium on a medium.

85. The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes the at least part of the postal data.

- 15 86. The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes a code for correcting at least one error in the postal data.

87. The method of claim 84 wherein the second data includes a code for detecting at least one error in the postal data.

- 20 88. The method of claim 84 wherein the first machine readable portion includes a barcode.

89. The method of claim 88 wherein the barcode is a two-dimensional barcode.

90. The method of claim 84 wherein the second machine readable portion includes a barcode.

- 30 91. The method of claim 90 wherein the barcode is a one-dimensional barcode.

92. A method for use in an apparatus for dispensing label stock, the method comprising:

5 setting an address on a first part of the label stock and a postage indicium on a second part of the label stock, the postage indicium being indicative of a payment of postage, the first part and the second part being applied onto a mailpiece, wherein said postage indicium is a 2-dimensional bar code; and

 generating at least one indication for associating the first part with the second part; and

 setting the indication on at least one of the first and second parts.

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93. The method of claim 92 wherein the indication is human readable.

94. The method of claim 92 wherein the indication is set on the second part, and the indication contains information concerning at least part of the address.

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95. The method of claim 94 wherein the information concerns a zip code in the address.

96. The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

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97. The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

98. The device of claim 1 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

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~~100~~ The system of claim 15 wherein said transaction concerns theater ticket image.

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~~101~~ The system of claim 15 wherein said transaction concerns postal image.

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~~T02~~ The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

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~~T03~~ The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

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~~T04~~ The apparatus of claim 29 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

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~~T05~~ The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a postal image.

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~~T06~~ The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a lottery ticket image.

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~~T07~~ The method of claim 57 wherein said image of indicium is a theater ticket image.

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~~T08~~ The system of claim 21 wherein the selected information includes a PIN.

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~~T09~~ The system of claim 69 wherein the selected information includes a PIN.